

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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BRAIN TWISTER

Five poker experts (hereafter will be referred to as player number 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) were conveniently seated around a table. To liven up the game, Player number 1 introduced the following game. (Try it.)

First: Each of the five players place a heap of pennies in front of them, equal in number to the heap in front of Player number 1.

Second: Number 1 puts all of his heap in a bag and passes it to the second player to his left or to number 3.

Third: Number three takes out of the bag and gives to his neighbors so many pennies as represent their names; that is, he must give 4 to player number 4 and 2 to player number 2. Then he must put into the bag from his heap half as much as it contained when he received the bag; and he must then hand it to the second person to his left.

Fourth: Player number 5 now having the bag must proceed in the same way as player number 3, and pass it on to the second person to his left.

Fifth: This process continues until the bag comes back to number 1, where the game ends. During the game if any player cannot furnish, from his own heap, the whole of what he has to put into the bag, he is at liberty to draw upon any of the other heaps, excluding number 1.

The other players entered into the game with much enthusiasm; and in due time the bag returned to number 1, who put into it the two pennies he had received during the game, and said: "Boys, goodnight, it cost me to learn the game, now you can pass it on." The other players gazed at each other with rueful countenances. Not one of them had a penny left!

Can you figure out how many pennies were in the heap that number 1 placed on the table?

(Turn to Page 19 for Answer)

ANSWER TO BRAIN TWISTER

(See Page 15 for Brain Twister)

When number 1 put the bag in his pocket, it contained \$34.80 or in other words each player started with 696 pennies.